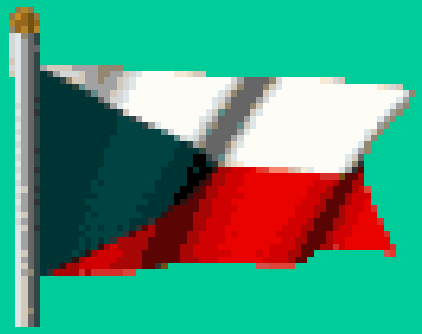
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



CZECH REPUBLIC

(CESKA REPUBLIKA)

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Czech Republic

Capital: Prague

Population: 10,280,519 (est)

Type of government: Parliamentary dem

Head of government: PM Milos Zeman

Official language(s) Czech, Slovak

Economy: EmergingCapitalist

Religions: Atheist (40%), Catholic (40%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Prague

Flights from Frankfurt: Lufthansa, CSA Czech Airlines

Other methods of arrival: Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Trziste 15, Prague Tel: 420-2-5753-0663 FAX: 420-2-5753-2718 Email - usdaoprg@mbox.vol.cz.

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Good.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good. Persons driving into the Czech Republic should be aware that a road usage tax sticker is required to drive legally on several major highways, including the E-50 motorway. Signs stating this requirement are posted near the border, but are in Czech only and are easy to miss. The stickers are available at gasoline stations

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: For official travel, no-fee passport and orders are required.

US personnel entering the Czech Republic in connection with SFOR deployment and follow-on sustainment operations are exempt from passport regulations. US personnel shall carry military identification cards which they may be requested to produce for Czech authorities. Military personnel on leave require passports and leave orders. Civilian personnel (including dependents) require passports. A visa is not required for stays of 30 days or less. A visa is required if

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Entry by car requires registration papers, valid International Drivers License, and Personal Liability Insurance valid for the Czech Republic. "Green card" or "blue card" valid for the Czech Republic are acceptable. In some cases insurance can be purchased at the border. Tourist facilities, particularly those found in the capital, Prague, are quickly approaching the level of those found in most European countries. Outside of Prague, these facilities are not as developed, and some goods and services taken for granted in other European countries may not yet be available. In November 1996, taxi fares in Prague were deregulated. There is no fixed charge. Passengers should determine the fare to be charged and agree on it before beginning a taxi ride. Taxis operating from stands in the most common tourist areas charge significantly higher fees than many taxi services which

Amembassy operating hours are 0730L-1700L Mon-Fri. Closed on US and Czech holidays.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: There is no limit on the import of US or other foreign currency, however, some places may not accept US $100 bills due to a counterfeiting problem. Import and export of local currency is prohibited. Local currency must be obtained through government authorized sources (banks, hotels, and change offices at border crossing points).

Rate: Approximate: 37 Czech Koruna for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, heat injuries and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Adequate medical care is readily available.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Czech Republic. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed

Status of hospitals: Good

Health Precautions: Children under two years of age should avoid drinking tap water, due to the presence of nitrates. Tap water is safe to drink for all others.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, typhoid, influenza, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to the Czech Republic. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Instances of purse snatching, robberies, and burglaries are on the rise. Travel in pairs or groups; keep wallets in safe pockets and purses under arms. Lock all car doors and trunks. Ignore black market money activities. Groups of gypsies are known to have used razors to empty contents of purses and used mace or similar substances to disable victims. The Wenceslas Square and other tourist areas are primary locations for such actions. : First-class roads in the Czech Republic generally meet European standards. However, on side roads, drivers should be prepared to encounter uneven surfaces, irregular lane markings, and sign placements which are not clear. Roads are often under construction. Streets in towns are not always in good condition. U.S. drivers should pay special

CRIME

Criminal Activities: : The Czech Republic has a low rate of violent crime. However, there has been a dramatic increase in street crime, particularly pickpocketing, especially in major tourist areas in Prague and on public transportation. Visitors should be alert to the potential for substantial overcharging by taxis, particularly in areas frequented by tourists. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Czech Rrepublic is strict on: Drugs. Penalties for possession, use, and dealing in illegal drugs are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines.

WEATHER

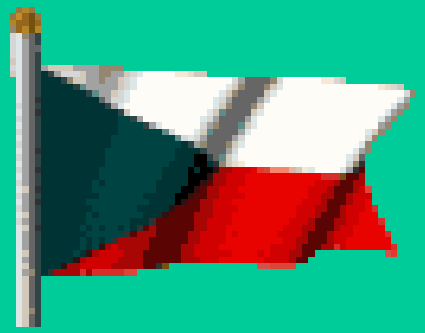
http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Except for summer months, fall/winter clothing is recommended. Umbrellas are recommended, especially Sep-May. Uniforms may be worn by military personnel when meeting with Czech civilian or military officials (e.g., during military exchange visits, ceremonies, joint exercises, etc.). Crews of US military aircraft may wear flight suits to and from billeting. US military personnel entering the Czech Republic in connection with IFOR deployment and follow-on operations shall normally wear military uniform and may possess and carry arms if authorized to do so by their orders.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



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